

GEN. SMITH

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Corrected 8/12/52
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August 8, 1952

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE

to the Holders of

PSB D-18a/2

(July 31, 1952)

The number PSB D-18a/2 was assigned to this document in error. This number had already been used for an earlier document in this series, a working draft dated March 10, 1952.

The number PSB D-18a/3 is hereby assigned to this document. The holders will enter this correction into their copies.

This note will be attached by the holders to their identically numbered copies of the document.

Edmund J. Bennett

Edmund J. Bennett
Major, USAF
Acting Executive Officer

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NSC review(s) completed.

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PSYCHOLOGICAL STRATEGY BOARD
WASHINGTON

ALL 3 1352

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
David K. Bruce
Under Secretary of State

The Honorable
William C. Foster
Deputy Secretary of Defense

General Walter B. Smith
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Psychological Operations Plan
for Soviet Orbit Escapees - Phase "A" (PSB D-18a)

There is attached a report on the subject plan developed by the staff on the basis of information obtained from the State Department, CIA, the Department of Defense and MSA. A brief account of this activity has been included in the NSC Report as well.

This project which has been under the administrative direction of the State Department has not progressed far enough to date to permit the handling of any significant movement of escapees. However, the necessary organization has now been established and substantially staffed and sufficient progress has been made in completing arrangements with cooperating governments and volunteer agencies to enable the screening and movement of escapees toward resettlement to begin. The State Department should be urged to proceed with the program with all possible speed.

Aside from the need for vigorous implementation of the program, it is suggested that the State Department should take one additional step. As you are aware, the basic plan (D-18a) did not specify the manner in which it should be treated from the standpoint of foreign information. The State Department reports that no general propaganda exploitation of the escapee program is contemplated but that a guidance is being prepared emphasizing spot treatment through overseas information media of newsworthy care and resettlement projects and of assistance given to key individuals. Although this may be the wisest manner of treatment, there are questions underlying such a decision which might be usefully considered on an interdepartmental basis. These include an identification of those of the several purposes of the program which can be furthered through foreign information activities and a common understanding as to agency roles and activities.

Recommendations

It is recommended:

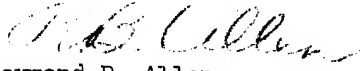
1. That the attached progress report be considered and approved by the Board.

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2. That POC be requested to review current foreign information plans and activities in support of the Escapee Phase A Program and consider whether additional actions should be taken by one or more of the constituent agencies.


Raymond B. Allen
Director

Enclosure:

1. Progress Report on Psychological Operations Plan for Soviet Orbit Escapees - Phase "A" (PSB D-18a).

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Progress Report to The Psychological Strategy Board
on
Psychological Operations Plan for Soviet
Orbit Escapees -- Phase "A" (PSB D-18a)

This plan, approved by PSB December 20, 1951, includes programs to care for and resettle current escapees. [redacted] under the Lodge Amendment to the Universal Military Training and Service Act, Public Law 51, which permits recruitment of escapees into the U. S. Armed Forces.

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Escapees are those persons from the territory or control of the USSR, the Baltic States, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania and Albania, who escape into Western Europe, ranging from Turkey to Sweden. East Germans, Yugoslavs, Chinese and ethnic expelees, such as Turks and Greeks, are not included.

On April 7, pursuant to approval by the President, \$4.3 million dollars were made available by the Director of Mutual Security to the Department of State, which had been given responsibility for the program.

The time since funds were made available has been used:

- (1) to identify and care for the most urgent immediate needs of escapees; and
- (2) to build the organization and staff for the continuing administration of the program.

Organization.

Small staffs are being established within the U. S. Diplomatic Missions in each of the countries which border the iron curtain. Activities in support of this program have been begun in all of these countries. A regional office has been established in HICOG and a policy and coordination unit in the Department of State has been attached to the staff of the Advisor on Refugees and Displaced Persons, Bureau of United Nations Affairs.

Preliminary Arrangements.

A general contract was signed on June 16, 1952, with the Provisional Committee for the Movement of Migrants from Europe (PICMME, an international body organized in November, 1951) for the overseas transport of up to 14,000 escapees during one year at an estimated rate of \$100 per capita. Further detailed negotiations on movement of escapees under the PICMME contract and operating procedures with voluntary agencies took place during July.

Resettlement.

The first escapee to be moved under the program left Germany for the United States on June 4; eight others departed June 16, and another shipment was scheduled for July 14. In Austria, 123 persons are being prepared for resettlement to Canada; two have been moved from Italy to Ecuador. It is anticipated that a scheduled flow may be attained in August.

Supplemental Care.

Projects have been authorized to care for urgent immediate needs of escapees resident in Greece, Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Italy. The assistance has been taken the form of food, clothing, shoes, repair and decontamination of barracks, medical treatment and the like. For example, in Germany, projects developed by the National Catholic Welfare League, the Lutheran World Federation, and World YM/YWCA, are being supported by funds obligated under this program and will provide aid regardless of religious affiliation. In every country of operation the immediate needs of the escapees are being met.

Propaganda Utilization.

For the present, no general propaganda utilization of the plans and activities of the Escapee Program is contemplated by State Department. Spot treatment through overseas information media of newsworthy care and resettlement projects and of assistance to key individuals will be undertaken when circumstances are favorable and opportunities are presented. Dissemination will be confined to Iron Curtain areas. When the program has greater accomplishments to point to, the State Department plans more general treatment.

Funds.

Of the initial authorization of \$4,300,000 an estimated \$1,500,000 was obligated during the fiscal year 1952. It should be noted that the request to the Congress for fiscal year 1953 was in the amount of \$4,260,500, consisting of the \$2.8 million unused in FY '52 plus an additional \$1,460,500 to cover an increase in the estimated number of escapees already requiring assistance. Under the terms of the Mutual Security Act further determination by the President authorizing the use of the additional \$1,460,500 for the Escapee Program will be required.

Accomplishment of Other Purposes.

The Department of Defense was requested under this phase of the plan to liberalize the conditions under which escapees may be recruited under the authorization of the Lodge Amendment to the Universal Military Training and Service Act and to take all feasible steps to expand such recruiting. Physical and mental requirements have been somewhat relaxed. Of 5194 applications from escapees, 3916 have been rejected, 295 have been accepted (262 of whom are already on active duty) and 982 are being processed. Most of the latter cases are still in the hands of CIC.

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